UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.183/SR.212
14 February 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE
RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 212th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 3 February 1995, at 10.30 a.m.

Temporary Chairman: Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali
(Secretary-General of the United Nations)

Chairman: Mr. CISSE (Senegal)

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95-80277 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (A/AC.183/1995/L.1)

1. The agenda was adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

2. Mr. ABDELLAH (Tunisia), supported by Mr. BATU (Turkey), nominated Mr. Cissé (Senegal) for re-election to the office of Chairman, Mr. Farhadi (Afghanistan) for re-election to the office of Vice-Chairman and Mr. Cassar (Malta) for re-election to the office of Rapporteur.

3. The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to elect the candidates as officers of the Committee nominated by the representative of Tunisia.

4. It was so decided.

5. Mr. Cissé (Senegal) took the Chair.

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

6. The SECRETARY-GENERAL said that the Committee was meeting on the basis of a General Assembly mandate which had been renewed with the approval of a great majority of Member States. Since the opening session of the Committee in 1994, the Middle East had witnessed further historic and encouraging developments towards the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973): the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, signed in 1993 by the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel; the signing in Cairo in May 1994 of the Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area; the withdrawal of Israeli troops from most of those areas; the establishment of the Palestinian Authority and the deployment of the Palestinian Police Force; the signing, in August 1994, of the Agreement on Preparatory Transfer of Powers and Responsibilities regarding the West Bank; and, on 26 October 1994, the signing of the historic peace treaty between Jordan and Israel. It was his earnest hope that those important events would be followed by the full implementation of the Declaration of Principles and progress on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks of the peace process.

7. While much had been achieved, far more remained to be done. The situation on the ground continued to give cause for concern. Acts of violence carried out by those opposed to peace were reminders that, after decades of bloodshed and distrust, the process of building confidence between Palestinians and Israelis was not only difficult but painful. There was no justification for such deplorable incidents; they cast a pall over the entire process. Yet the only way to overcome the doubts and apprehensions generated by them was to renew the commitment to finding workable arrangements which would enable the two sides to live peacefully together.

8. The negotiations which lay ahead, and the difficult choices they would bring, would require patience, perseverance, and a spirit of compromise at every turn. They must be carried out in good faith. In that connection, he was mindful of the deep concern generated by the decision of the Government of Israel to expand settlements in the occupied territories, about which he had received an urgent letter dated 31 January from the Permanent Observer for Palestine which had been issued as a document of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

9. The hopes generated by the historic agreements reached in 1993 and 1994 could not be allowed to give way to despair. It was disturbing that, after nearly 17 months, those agreements had yet to produce tangible benefits in the daily lives of Palestinians. There had been deep frustration at the continuing lack of improvement in living conditions in the occupied territories, particularly in Gaza, where unemployment was estimated to be higher than 50 or 60 per cent. The expectations created by donor pledges of hundreds of millions of dollars had not been met. He appealed once again for the prompt and effective delivery of the assistance already pledged, but not yet delivered, to the Palestinian people.

10. For his part, he had placed the greatest possible emphasis on sustainable economic and social development in the occupied territories. In June 1994 he had appointed Ambassador Larsen as Special Coordinator to ensure the coordinated work of the United Nations system in response to the urgent needs of the Palestinian people. The importance of his responsibilities had been stressed by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/21 N of 20 December 1994. In close cooperation with the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), Mr. Larsen had been active in strengthening local coordination between agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions and the donor community. Work was currently under way - by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), in particular - to launch a massive public works programme in Gaza.

11. He urged all parties to strive for further progress in the negotiations leading to peace. He wished to renew his pledge that the United Nations would spare no effort in support of that process.

12. In conclusion, he expressed his appreciation for the continuing efforts of the Committee in the fulfilment of its mandate, as reconfirmed by General Assembly resolution 49/62 A of 14 December 1994, and wished it every success in its work.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

13. The CHAIRMAN said that the series of events which had occurred in the Middle East since the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements in September 1993, mutual recognition by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the establishment of the Palestinian Authority in Jericho and Gaza should be closely monitored. Temporary setbacks should not impede the peace process. He wished to thank the Secretary-General

for his constant support for the Palestinian cause and the members of the Committee for having re-elected him as Chairman. Senegal remained committed to seeking a just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian question.

STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT OBSERVER FOR PALESTINE

14. Mr. AL-KIDWA (Observer for Palestine) said that the Committee symbolized the permanent responsibility of the United Nations towards the Palestinian people until such time as a just, comprehensive and effective solution could be found. He referred to the historic developments which had taken place in the Middle East, in particular, the signing, on 13 September 1993, of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements between the PLO and the Government of Israel. A positive result of the Organization's and the Committee's support for the Middle East peace process in general and the Palestinian-Israeli track in particular, had been the implementation of the first phase of the Declaration of Principles in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

15. Unfortunately, the second phase of the process had been stalled by illegal settlements in the Israeli-occupied territories, continued attempts by the Israelis to alter the de facto status of Jerusalem and continued human rights violations by the occupying forces aimed at derailing the peace process. He hoped that the regional summit meeting held the night before in Cairo would change the situation and that the second phase of the Declaration of Principles could be implemented fully.

16. The international community had a major role to play in ensuing the success of the peace process. In that connection, he thanked the Secretary-General for his deep interest in and constant support for the peace process for appointing a Special Coordinator in the occupied territories and for transferring UNRWA headquarters to the Palestinian territories. Palestine hoped that the role of the United Nations in the peace process would be enhanced and was prepared to cooperate with the Organization in order to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement in the Middle East.

17. The Secretary-General withdrew.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

18. Mr. CASSAR (Malta), Rapporteur, said that, at its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly had adopted important resolutions on the question of Palestine which took into account recent major developments and, at the same time, recognized that the Committee had an important role to play in contributing to the peace process that was under way. Those resolutions had once again been adopted by large majorities, reflecting the determination of the international community to advance towards a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the question. They also served to encourage the Committee to intensify its efforts even further in the coming year.

19. The Committee would need to consider soon what activities it wished to undertake in 1995 in pursuance of its mandate, having regard to the ongoing peace process and the current developments in the region. The Committee officers had prepared a draft programme of work for 1995 which would be

circulated to members in the near future. In order to facilitate that exercise and other deliberations of the Committee, he proposed the re-establishment of the open-ended working group, in accordance with past practice.

20. The CHAIRMAN said that, as there were no further speakers, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the Rapporteur's proposal to re-establish the open-ended working group, with Mr. Cassar (Malta) serving as Chairman and Mr. Chinoy (India) as Vice-Chairman.

21. It was so decided.

OTHER MATTERS

22. The CHAIRMAN said that he would report to the Committee at its next meeting on his participation in the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the Islamic Summit Conference, held at Casablanca in December 1994.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.183/SR.213
9 March 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 213th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 22 February 1995 at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. CISSE (Senegal)

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DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 1995

PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN NGO SYMPOSIUM, THE EUROPEAN NGO SYMPOSIUM AND THE INTERNATIONAL NGO MEETING ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE, 27-28 FEBRUARY 1995, UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

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UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR AND NGO SYMPOSIUM ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 20-23 MARCH 1995, RIO DE JANEIRO

APPLICATIONS BY NGOs FOR ACCREDITATION WITH THE COMMITTEE

OTHER MATTERS

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The agenda was adopted.

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN ON THE MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS AND THE SUMMIT CONFERENCE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE, HELD AT CASABLANCA, MOROCCO, ON 10-11 AND 13-14 DECEMBER 1994

2. The CHAIRMAN reported that he had represented the Committee at the Summit Conference of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and at the Ministerial Meeting which had preceded it. The Summit had coincided with the Organization's twenty-fifth anniversary. The State of Palestine, which was a full member of the Organization, had been represented by a large delegation headed by President Yasser Arafat. The report of the Secretary-General of the Organization had examined the Israeli-Arab-Palestinian conflict in depth, as well as the specific resolutions and decisions adopted in that regard. The second item on the agenda had been devoted to the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the status of Al-Quds al-Sharif, the Al-Quds Fund and the waqf, the occupied Syrian Arab Golan and the occupation of Lebanese territory by Israel. The statements made by the different delegations had confirmed the importance that they continued to attach to the Palestinian problem.

3. The Summit had sought to encourage the peace process between Israel and Palestine, without overlooking the difficulties and dangers it presented, and had deplored the delays - caused by Israeli intransigence - in implementing the timetable established by the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements. In the Casablanca Declaration issued at the end of the Summit, the Organization had expressed its support for the peace process and had reaffirmed the need to arrive at a just and lasting peace on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 425 (1978); the "land for peace" proposal; recovery of all the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including the city of Al-Quds al-Sharif, the Syrian Golan and southern Lebanon; and the guarantee of the Palestinian people's sovereignty over its territory and of its right to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent State with Al-Quds al-Sharif as its capital. The declaration had also deplored the delaying tactics used by Israel to postpone the implementation of internationally binding resolutions.

4. In the final communiqué issued following the Ministerial Conference, the Foreign Ministers had reaffirmed that the question of Palestine and Al-Quds al-Sharif was the foremost cause of all Muslims and had expressed their solidarity with the Palestine Liberation Organization in its just fight to eradicate the after-effects of Israeli occupation and establish Palestinian national institutions on Palestinian soil. They had expressed support for the peace process in the Middle East and had welcomed the agreements signed in that regard. They had called for the return of Al-Quds al-Sharif as capital of the Palestinian State, an end to Jewish settlements in Palestinian and Arab territories, and the dismantling of existing settlements. Lastly, they had

demanded the release of Palestinian prisoners, the return of deportees and an end to the collective sanctions imposed by Israel.

5. Mr. AL-KIDWA (Observer for Palestine) said that the Al-Quds Committee has also met in Morocco, in January 1995. The Chairman of that Committee had requested the Ambassador of Morocco to arrange for the statement issued on that occasion to be distributed as an official United Nations document.

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 1995 (A/AC.183/1995/CRP.1)

6. Mr. CASSAR (Malta), Rapporteur, introducing the Committee's draft programme of work for 1995 (A/AC.183/1995/CRP.1), said that it sought to define the role to be played by the Committee at a time of great challenges for the Palestinian people. Section I of the draft programme summarized the mandate of the Committee. Section II identified the priority issues to be addressed by the Committee in 1995, namely, promoting support for the ongoing peace process and for the Declaration of Principles and subsequent implementation agreements and monitoring the situation on the ground; mobilizing international assistance for the Palestinian people; and encouraging constructive consideration of the major issues to be negotiated at a later stage with a view to promoting a final settlement based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and other relevant resolutions. Lastly, section III described the activities planned by the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights in 1995.

7. The draft programme of work of the Committee for 1995 was adopted.

PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN NGO SYMPOSIUM, THE EUROPEAN NGO SYMPOSIUM AND THE INTERNATIONAL NGO MEETING ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE, 27-28 FEBRUARY 1995, UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK (Working Paper No. 1)

8. The CHAIRMAN said that, following consultations between the Officers of the Committee and the various coordinating committees for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on Palestine, it had been decided to hold a single preparatory meeting for the North American, International and European NGO meetings. He took it that the Committee wished to adopt Working Paper No. 1, containing the provisional agenda of the meeting.

9. It was so decided.

UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR AND NGO SYMPOSIUM ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 20-23 MARCH 1995, RIO DE JANEIRO (Working Paper No. 2)

10. The CHAIRMAN said that Working Paper No. 2 contained the provisional programme for the Seminar and symposium. He took it that the Committee wished to adopt Working Paper No. 2.

11. It was so decided.

APPLICATIONS BY NGOs FOR ACCREDITATION WITH THE COMMITTEE (Working Paper No. 3)

12. The CHAIRMAN said that, after careful perusal of the programmes and activities of the NGOs listed in Working Paper No. 3, the regional coordinating committees for NGOs had recommended them all for accreditation with the Committee. The Committee's approval of their applications would enable those organizations to participate more fully in the events organized by the Committee. He took it that the Committee wished to adopt Working Paper No. 3.

13. It was so decided.

OTHER MATTERS

14. Mr. AL-KIDWA (Observer for Palestine) said that negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis had reached an impasse, mainly because Israel, the occupying Power, was pursuing its settlements policy, in violation of international humanitarian law, Security Council resolutions and the letter and spirit of the Agreement reached between the two sides. The Israeli Government had taken a number of punitive measures against the Palestinian people which included closing off the Palestinian territories and isolating Jerusalem, thereby not only preventing Palestinian workers from seeking jobs on which they had become dependent but also cutting off the Gaza Strip from the West Bank, parts of the West Bank from each other, and Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank, as well as isolating the entire Palestinian territory from the outside world.

15. As a result of Israel's position, there had been no progress in the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles. The redeployment of Israeli forces in the rest of the West Bank and the holding of Palestinian elections, both of which were an integral part of the second phase, had been delayed. International efforts had failed to alter the Israeli position, and the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization had been meeting to consider an appropriate response.

16. He recalled that, in early 1994, important consultations had been held at United Nations Headquarters among members of the Security Council, the Chairman of the Committee and members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries with a view to taking action to secure an end to all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem. The Chairman of the Group of Arab States was about to request a meeting of the Security Council and one possibility might be for the Council to adopt a resolution on the situation. He hoped that members of the Committee were ready to support the Palestinian people and the Office of the Permanent Observer for Palestine to the United Nations.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.183/SR.214
19 May 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 214th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 13 April 1995 at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. CISSE (Senegal)

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REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN ON THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON "AL-QUDS, CITY OF PEACE", HELD AT CAIRO, EGYPT, 12 TO 14 MARCH 1995

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN ON THE UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR AND NGO SYMPOSIUM ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGION, HELD AT RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL, 20 TO 23 MARCH 1995

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95-80673 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The CHAIRMAN said that one agenda item had been withdrawn since the Ambassador of Cuba, who was scheduled to be elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee, was unable to be present.

2. Ms. CUETO (Cuba) said that the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations had received an official note from the United States requesting the immediate departure of two Cuban diplomats from the country, which explained the Permanent Representative's absence. She assured the Committee that the Cuban delegation intended to be present at the next meeting of the Committee so that a decision could be taken on the Vice-Chairmanship.

3. The agenda was adopted.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN ON THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON "AL-QUDS, CITY OF PEACE", HELD AT CAIRO, EGYPT, 12 TO 14 MARCH 1995

4. The CHAIRMAN reported that he had attended the international seminar on "Al-Quds, City of Peace" at the invitation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the League of Arab States. The purpose of the seminar was to affirm that Jerusalem had not been settled by Jews 3,000 years previously, as their anniversary celebrations seemed to imply; that Jerusalem was historically an Arab city with an uninterrupted Muslim presence spanning 13 centuries; and that Jerusalem should remain a city of religious tolerance, as it had been throughout its Muslim history. Furthermore, all Israeli efforts to change the geographical, demographic and historical character of Jerusalem, as well as its legal status, should be condemned. To that end the participants had called for the implementation of Security Council resolutions 465, 476 and 478. Lastly, the seminar had emphasized that the status of Jerusalem as an occupied city was a key issue for the Palestinian and Middle East question as a whole.

5. The seminar had been attended by both Muslim and Christian religious leaders and political figures from the Arab world. It had been agreed to hold further seminars, and the next such meeting would take place in the United States in 1996.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN ON THE UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR AND NGO SYMPOSIUM ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGION, HELD AT RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL, 20 TO 23 MARCH 1995

6. The CHAIRMAN reported that the main theme of the seminar and symposium had been "Supporting the peace process - the contribution of Latin America and the Caribbean". Three separate panels had considered the topics of "Developments since the signing of the Declaration of Principles", "Palestinian self-government - challenges and prospects of nation-building" and "New opportunities for action by Latin American and Caribbean countries and organizations". In addition, there had been non-governmental organization workshops to discuss "NGO activities to mobilize public opinion for a just and lasting solution of the

question of Palestine - review of actions taken since the first Latin American and Caribbean Symposium in 1990 and future activities" and "Mobilization and networking by NGOs in Latin America and the Caribbean to promote assistance to the Palestinian people".

7. The panellists had included representatives from Latin American and Caribbean countries. Members of the Israeli Knesset and the Central Council of the Palestine Liberation Organization, representatives of Governments, United Nations organs and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and journalists and academics had also taken part.

8. The five-member Committee delegation had taken an active part in the work of the seminar, and had noted with satisfaction the meeting's contribution to a better understanding of the fundamental issues involved and the changing political environment. The seminar had also helped to promote international and regional support for the peace process, including concrete assistance to the Palestinians in their nation-building efforts. Among other topics, the seminar had discussed Palestinian needs and possibilities for action by the international community in general, and by the Latin American and Caribbean countries in particular. The role of the Palestinian diaspora in that regard had been of great interest to many participants.

9. Concerns regarding the fragility of the peace process had been expressed by many of the speakers at the seminar and symposium. At the same time there had been a feeling of hope that 1993 had witnessed a new beginning, and it had been stressed that the assistance and support of the international community was needed to consolidate the fledgling process. The statements and documents of the seminar and symposium had demonstrated the unanimous desire of the participants to support that evolution and to contribute to resolving the plight of the Palestinian people by helping it achieve its right to self-determination and the end of the occupation. It was also gratifying that the Latin American and Caribbean non-governmental organizations had been able to lay the foundation for a more effective organization of their future action with regard to the Palestine question.

OTHER MATTERS

10. Mr. AL-KIDWA (Observer for Palestine) said he wished to comment on the recent acts of violence that had taken place in the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian Authority condemned such acts and was firmly in favour of continuing the peace process. However, the presence of illegal Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories continued to be an aggravating factor. Nevertheless, the Palestinian Authority fully intended to establish law and order in the areas under its jurisdiction. He stressed that military containment had to be replaced by a genuine economic and political solution, and therefore the peace process had to develop in accordance with the agreements reached between Palestine and Israel. In that regard the implementation of the second part of the Declaration of Principles was particularly important; Israeli troops had to be redeployed and elections held throughout the Palestinian territories.

11. Specifically, it was very important to address the deteriorating economic situation, which was actually worse than it had been before the start of the

peace process. The Israeli side had to shoulder much of the blame for that deterioration. The effective sealing-off of the Palestinian territories on security grounds kept them isolated from the outside world. Furthermore, entitlements owed to the Palestinian authorities from tax revenues had not been forthcoming. Israeli policy was thus designed to strangle the Palestinian territories in economic terms.

12. On the same issue, it was a matter of grave concern that the bulk of the financial commitments made by donor countries to the Palestinian Authority had not been honoured. The Palestinians had received only a fraction of what had been promised them. In conclusion, he reiterated that the situation was difficult; it required political will as well as an immediate economic solution. Great strides had been made but further effort was still needed.

13. The CHAIRMAN invited the Chief of the Palestine and Decolonization Section of the Department of Public Information (DPI) to introduce a new DPI publication on Palestine and report on a DPI-sponsored seminar on assistance to the Palestinian people in the field of media development.

14. Mr. TLILI (Department of Public Information) introduced a new DPI publication entitled "Prerequisites for Peace in the Middle East" which reflected the proceedings of the International Encounter for European Journalists on the Question of Palestine organized by DPI from 15 to 17 June 1994 in Elsinore, Denmark. The encounter panel had included policy makers and analysts from Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, the Russian Federation, the United States and the World Bank. Representatives of European and Middle East media, members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of Danish non-governmental organizations and academic institutions had also attended. It was hoped that readers of the publication would find in it useful insights that might contribute to advancing the peace process.

15. The Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People in the Field of Media Development had been organized by DPI in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/62 C of 14 December 1994. It had brought together Palestinian media representatives and policy makers, as well as media experts and representatives of foundations and donor agencies, principally from Europe and the United States.

16. The seminar had examined ways and means to promote independent and pluralistic Palestinian media and had provided an opportunity to evaluate the concerns and needs of Palestinian media professionals in such areas as media and the democratic process, the legal aspects of communication, media ownership and editorial freedom, financing and management, application of new communications technologies, and the training of media professionals. It had proposed a series of recommendations and concrete projects in those areas and ways to implement them. DPI would make every effort to ensure that, in cooperation with donor organizations inside or outside the United Nations system, those recommendations would be implemented with a view to strengthening Palestinian media capability.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.183/SR.215
8 June 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 215th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 17 May 1995, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. CISSE (Senegal)

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THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE CONFISCATION OF LAND AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SETTLEMENTS IN JERUSALEM

UNITED NATIONS NORTH AMERICAN NGO SYMPOSIUM ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE, UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, 19-25 JUNE 1995, AND UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL NGO MEETING/EUROPEAN NGO SYMPOSIUM ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE, VIENNA, 28-31 AUGUST 1995

UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR ON PALESTINIAN ADMINISTRATIVE, MANAGERIAL AND FINANCIAL NEEDS AND CHALLENGES, UNESCO HEADQUARTERS, PARIS, 28-30 JUNE 1995

OTHER MATTERS

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95-81009 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The agenda was adopted.

ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE

2. The CHAIRMAN said it was his understanding that the Committee wished to elect the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations to serve as Vice-Chairman.

3. It was so decided.

THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE CONFISCATION OF LAND AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SETTLEMENTS IN JERUSALEM

4. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Security Council had been meeting to discuss recent developments in the occupied Arab territories and that the representative of Afghanistan, in his capacity as Acting Chairman of the Committee, had taken part in the discussions and had conveyed the position of the Committee to the Security Council.

5. Mr. FARHADI (Afghanistan), reporting on the discussions in the Council, said that all who had spoken had expressed concern at the recent developments in East Jerusalem, and that many delegations had agreed that the Security Council should take action.

6. Mr. AL-KIDWA (Observer for Palestine) noted that the draft resolution which had been introduced the previous day in the Security Council by the six Council members which were also members of the Non-Aligned Movement seemed likely to enjoy the support of all members of the Council except the United States of America. It would be most regrettable if the latter were to veto it, for it would be very damaging for the peace process in the Middle East and for the international situation as a whole.

7. Mr. TUFAKJI (Arab Studies Society) gave a slide presentation on the measures Israel had taken since 1967, under various "master plans", to expand its occupation of East Jerusalem and to pursue its aim of reducing the proportion of Arabs in the area, currently 28 per cent, to no more than 22 per cent. Those measures included enlarging the land area of East Jerusalem from 6.5 square kilometres to 70.5 square kilometres; confiscating unpopulated ("green") areas for "public purposes" and subsequently building settlements on them; confiscating Arab land under the Absentee Property Law; enacting regulations under which buildings in most Arab areas could have no more than three storeys; and surrounding and dividing Arab neighbourhoods by sandwiching them between Israeli settlements in order to control their expansion. As a result of that process, 33 per cent of East Jerusalem was currently occupied by Israelis, while 40 per cent consisted of Israeli-held "green" areas and 10 per cent was inhabited by Arabs. Of the remainder, only 4 per cent was available for the future expansion of Arab neighbourhoods.

8. Mr. FARHADI (Afghanistan) asked for information on how archaeological excavations were affecting holy sites in the area, especially the Haram al-Sharif.

9. Mr. TUFAKJI (Arab Studies Society) said that the excavations had already weakened the buildings' foundations and that they would destroy the site if they were not stopped; however, efforts to halt them had failed.

UNITED NATIONS NORTH AMERICAN NGO SYMPOSIUM ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE, UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, 19-25 JUNE 1995, AND UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL NGO MEETING/EUROPEAN NGO SYMPOSIUM ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE, VIENNA, 28-31 AUGUST 1995

10. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the provisional programmes contained in working papers Nos. 4 and 5 respectively, and noted that further consultations would be held on prospective panellists for the International NGO Meeting/ European NGO Symposium. He would take it that the Committee approved working papers Nos. 4 and 5.

11. It was so decided.

UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR ON PALESTINIAN ADMINISTRATIVE, MANAGERIAL AND FINANCIAL NEEDS AND CHALLENGES, UNESCO HEADQUARTERS, PARIS, 28-30 JUNE 1995

12. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the provisional programme contained in working paper No. 6 and said he would take it that the Committee wished to approve it.

13. It was so decided.

OTHER MATTERS

14. Mr. AL-KIDWA (Observer for Palestine) said that a draft resolution (A/AC.240/1995/L.5) regarding the organization of the list of speakers for the Special Commemorative Meeting of the General Assembly had recently been introduced in the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations. Unfortunately, it went against everything that had been discussed and adopted regarding the participation of Palestine in the Special Commemorative Meeting. The matter had been raised with the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, and he hoped that the situation could be redressed.

15. In that connection he called upon all members of the Committee to support the position adopted at a recent Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement, which called for the full participation of Palestine in the Commemorative Meeting, noting that it would not imply any change in the status of Palestine within the United Nations system.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.183/SR.216
4 August 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE
RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 216th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 24 July 1995, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. CISSE (Senegal)

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UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL NGO MEETING/EUROPEAN NGO SYMPOSIUM ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE, TO BE HELD AT VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, AUSTRIA, 29 AUGUST TO 1 SEPTEMBER 1995

OTHER MATTERS

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The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The agenda was adopted.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN ON THE TWELFTH NORTH AMERICAN NGO SYMPOSIUM, HELD AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK, 19 TO 21 JUNE 1995, AND ON THE SEMINAR ON PALESTINIAN ADMINISTRATIVE, MANAGERIAL AND FINANCIAL NEEDS AND CHALLENGES, HELD AT UNESCO HEADQUARTERS, PARIS, 28 TO 30 JUNE 1995

2. The CHAIRMAN said that the non-governmental organization symposium held in New York had for its theme "The United Nations on its Fiftieth Anniversary and the Question of Palestine". North American, European, Palestinian and Israeli experts had presented papers on the political, economic and social challenges as well as obstacles to and opportunities for the ongoing peace process. The specific issues under discussion included refugees and displaced persons, settlements, the status of Jerusalem, securing respect for international humanitarian law, Palestinian women, promoting civil society, economic and social development and labour issues. A total of 73 non-governmental organizations had attended the symposium, and 16 Governments participated as observers. Mr. Al-Kidwa had read out a message from President Yasser Arafat.

3. The symposium had provided an opportunity for non-governmental organizations to unite, coordinate, intensify and diversify their efforts and activities and thus increase support for and assistance to the Palestinian people. The deliberations had demonstrated that the United Nations system, the Committee and non-governmental organizations had an important role to play during the current period of reconstruction and nation-building.

4. The North American non-governmental organizations would continue their practice of having Standing Committees in areas of special concern such as human rights, economic development, religious groups and the status of women.

5. The seminar held in Paris under the auspices of the Committee had provided a framework for an exchange of views on various aspects of Palestinian administrative, financial and managerial needs and challenges. The seminar had been attended by Palestinian, Israeli and other experts, United Nations bodies and agencies involved in the projects in the region, donor countries, regional organizations, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field. Representatives of 50 Governments were also present.

6. Some 20 experts had presented papers on different aspects of the Palestinian question and representatives of 16 Governments and organizations made statements during the deliberations. The programme for the seminar had started with a plenary session on the theme of "Palestinian administrative, managerial and financial needs and challenges - the role of international assistance". Round-table discussions had been held on the themes of the Palestinian Authority - needs and challenges of administration; laying the foundation for public financial management; supporting the development of the

Palestinian municipalities and public utilities; and human resources development and management - building institutional capacity.

7. The seminar had highlighted the fact that the ability to meet Palestinian needs while establishing a viable and effective administration in the area under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority was an essential stepping-stone in the struggle for self-determination. Efficiently functioning institutions of government, a developing economy, the creation of employment opportunities and the effective provision of social services would provide solid foundations for the next stage of the peace process. It was clear that the Committee functioned as a catalyst in bringing together Palestinian administrators and their counterparts from the international community and by initiating thorough discussion of the needs and challenges of administration and management. The Committee intended to consider appropriate follow-up measures to the various recommendations made in the course of the seminar.

8. Mr. FERNÁNDEZ PALACIOS (Cuba), supported by Mr. ZLENKO (Ukraine), said that he had noted with satisfaction the Committee's intention to consider effective follow-up measures to the recommendations made at the Paris seminar.

9. Mr. AL-KIDWA (Observer for Palestine) said he hoped it would be possible to hold a similar meeting the following year with particular emphasis on the economic situation in Palestine.

10. Mr. ZAINUDDIN (Malaysia) asked whether the Secretariat would be able to prepare a list of the recommendations made at the seminar and circulate it to members of the Committee.

11. The CHAIRMAN stressed the need to implement the recommendations outlined at the seminar and ensure that they did not remain a dead letter. Certain bodies within the United Nations system had asked to study the contents of the report of the Paris seminar with a view to taking action on their own initiative. The impetus towards implementation had been provided by officials within the United Nations itself. Furthermore, the report had been submitted to the Secretary-General with a request that it be circulated to all States members of the Economic and Social Council and all States Members of the United Nations as a document of the forthcoming fiftieth General Assembly. In response to the remarks of the Observer for Palestine, he hoped that the Economic and Social Council would recommend that a follow-up meeting should be held the following year.

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL NGO MEETING/EUROPEAN NGO SYMPOSIUM ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE, TO BE HELD AT VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, AUSTRIA, 29 AUGUST TO 1 SEPTEMBER 1995

12. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that the provisional programme of the scheduled Vienna meeting as contained in working paper No. 5/Rev.1 had had to be revised in consultation with the relevant Coordinating Committees of Non-Governmental Organizations on the Question of Palestine and the names of the participating experts had been added.

13. Mr. ZLENKO (Ukraine) said that the proposed event would undoubtedly make a worthy contribution to the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations while at the same time furthering the debate on Palestinian issues.

14. The CHAIRMAN took it that the Committee wished to approve working paper No. 5/Rev.1.

15. It was so decided.

OTHER MATTERS

16. Mr. CASSAR (Malta) conveyed his Government's compliments to the Committee on its excellent work. In particular, the Committee had shown flexibility and pragmatism in adapting to developments in the Middle East, in relation to both the peace process and Palestinian needs. The seminar in Paris, which had once more shown the intimate links between political and economic processes, had been impressive for the frankness with which both the representatives of Palestinian authorities and those of United Nations agencies had tackled the issues and acknowledged the undoubted difficulties. He welcomed the fact that changes in the political climate appeared to have encouraged greater participation in the question of Palestine from countries which had previously not been very active. Lastly, he reminded the Committee that, however necessary assistance was, it should not be imposed on the Palestinians who were the real decision makers.

17. The CHAIRMAN, supported by Mr. FARHADI (Vice-Chairman of the Committee), endorsed earlier comments on increased participation, saying that the Committee would benefit by a broadening of its composition. The Western European countries, in particular, had a larger role to play with regard to the economic and social aspects of the Palestinian question, which had become as important as the political aspects since the end of the cold war. The Bureau could profitably examine the matter to see how such expansion would benefit the Committee.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.183/SR.217
5 December 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE
RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 217th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 15 November 1995, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. CISSÉ (Senegal)

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REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN ON THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL NGO MEETING AND EUROPEAN NGO SYMPOSIUM ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE HELD AT THE VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, AUSTRIA, FROM 29 AUGUST TO 1 SEPTEMBER 1995

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN ON THE ELEVENTH CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES HELD AT CARTAGENA DE INDIAS, COLOMBIA, FROM 14 TO 20 OCTOBER 1995

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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95-82302 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The agenda was adopted.

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN ON THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL NGO MEETING AND EUROPEAN NGO SYMPOSIUM ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE, HELD AT THE VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, AUSTRIA, FROM 29 AUGUST TO 1 SEPTEMBER 1995

2. The CHAIRMAN reported that he had headed the delegation representing the Committee at the United Nations International NGO Meeting and European NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine and had addressed the meeting in his capacity as Chairman of the Committee.

3. The invited experts had made presentations in five panels, addressing the topics of the question of Palestine on the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations; the current political environment; various aspects of the final status of negotiations; the current socio-economic situation; and the need for strengthening activities by NGOs. The ensuing discussions had been lively and frank and had shown a clear commitment on the part of all participants to work towards a comprehensive, just and lasting solution of the question of Palestine.

4. In the final communiqué, the NGO participants had welcomed the positive developments in the Middle East peace process since the signing of the historic Declaration of Principles. They had also noted with great concern the repeated delays in the implementation of the letter and spirit of the agreement, which jeopardized the achievement of a just and lasting peace, and had exhorted Israel to honour its commitments in a timely manner. They had also reaffirmed that Israel, as the occupying Power, remained obligated to observe the fourth Geneva Convention until the Palestinian people had achieved full sovereignty. The inalienable rights of the Palestinian people had been emphasized, as had the need to demonstrate solidarity and to reaffirm the fundamental importance of questions related to Jerusalem, settlements and the right of return for the attainment of a just and lasting peace. The communiqué had called for concerted efforts by NGOs to publicize violations of Palestinian human rights, in particular ongoing incarceration of political prisoners; closure and intimidation of Palestinian institutions; restrictions imposed on international and Palestinian NGOs and the repeated closure of Jerusalem. Israel had also been urged to assure safe passage between Gaza and the West Bank for goods and people. It had further called for strengthening of NGOs and greater involvement and cooperation at all levels.

5. The Committee delegation had had a candid and constructive exchange of views with the chairmen and other members of the International and the European Coordinating Committees on the objectives and modalities of future cooperation. The Bureau would continue consultations with NGO representatives.

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN ON THE ELEVENTH CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES HELD AT CARTAGENA DE INDIAS, COLOMBIA, FROM 14 TO 20 OCTOBER 1995

6. The CHAIRMAN reported that he had represented the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People at the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Countries and at the preceding ministerial meeting. The Committee had always had observer status at summits of the Non-Aligned Countries, reflecting the Movement's staunch support of the Palestinian cause. A special committee on Palestine existed within the Non-Aligned Movement to analyse the ongoing situation in the occupied territories.

7. In the final Cartagena document, a score of paragraphs had been devoted to Palestine and to the peace process, following in-depth analysis by Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of State and Government. They had welcomed the creation of the Palestinian Authority, considering that it would serve as foundation for a Palestinian State, and appealed for rapid extension of the competence of the autonomous Palestinian Government and for the prompt application of the Declaration of Principles. They had fully supported the conclusions of the Taba Agreement, considering it to constitute an important step towards total withdrawal of Israel from all Arab territories occupied since 1967.

8. They had further emphasized that United Nations responsibility should continue until the Palestinian people enjoyed full exercise of their inalienable right to self-determination, a sovereign and independent State within its recognized borders had been created and the refugee problem solved. The General Assembly had been urged to restate during its fiftieth session the United Nations position on such important issues as the establishment of a final peace, including the status of Jerusalem, Israeli settlements and refugees. They had reiterated their support of all relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly on Jerusalem.

9. The Committee was gratified by the importance attributed by the Heads of State and Government to its work, as the United Nations mechanism, in connection with the Palestinian question. The final document had emphasized that substantial financial assistance would be needed to apply the Declaration of Principles and the Cairo Agreement. Support had been expressed for the peace process initiated in Madrid in October 1991. The efforts of other parties in the Middle Eastern conflict had been commended, particularly regarding the Syrian Golan Heights and Lebanon, and note had been taken of the Washington Declaration of 25 July 1994. Finally, all illegal decisions taken by Israel regarding the occupied Arab territories had been declared null and void.

10. The Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement continued staunchly to support the Palestinian people in its quest for an independent and sovereign State within recognized borders. They welcomed the considerable progress achieved in the current peace process but considered that the United Nations should continue to exercise its responsibilities in that connection.

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (A/AC.183/1995/CRP.2 and Add.1)

11. Mr. CASSAR (Malta), Rapporteur, said that the 1995 report, and in particular chapter IV, had been prepared in the context of the significant new developments that had taken place since the previous report. Chapter I contained the introduction and indicated in brief the Committee's objectives and perspectives during the year. Chapters II and III were procedural and summarized the respective mandates of the Committee, the Division for Palestinian Rights and the Department of Public Information, and gave information on the organization of the work of the Committee. Chapter IV reviewed the situation related to the question of Palestine and efforts to implement the Committee's mandate.

12. The Committee had noted that the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations had advanced, despite obstacles, leading to signature of the Protocol on Further Transfer of Powers and Responsibilities, followed by the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

13. Chapter V, section A, described the action taken by the Committee in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/62 A, while section B contained an account of action taken by the Committee and by the Division for Palestinian Rights, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/62 A and B. Chapter VI covered the work of the Department of Public Information in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/62 C. The various chapters would be updated by the Secretariat in consultation with the Rapporteur, as necessary, in order to reflect the most recent major developments. The seventh and last chapter contained the Committee's draft recommendations and expressed its intention to continue to strive for maximum effectiveness in the implementation of its mandate and to adjust its programme in the light of developments, in order further to contribute to the realization of the United Nations objective of achieving a just and lasting solution of the question of Palestine.

14. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee might begin by hearing comments of a general nature, before considering the report chapter by chapter and section by section. If there were no comments, he would take it that the Committee agreed to the procedure which he had suggested.

15. It was so decided.

16. Mr. ELISSEEV (Ukraine) said that, in order to present a complete picture of the Committee's activities, it would be advisable to include in the draft report the results of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 14 to 20 October 1995 and the decisions regarding the Palestinian people that had been adopted at that Conference. He also proposed to insert, at the end of the report, a chronology of important dates in the history of the Palestinian people, including recent events such as the signing of the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

17. The CHAIRMAN endorsed the suggestion that a chronology of important events in the history of the Palestinian people be included in the draft report and noted that a reference to the Conference at Cartagena de Indias would be inserted in paragraph 40 of the draft report which dealt with attendance at international conferences and meetings.

18. Mr. CASSAR (Malta), Rapporteur, said that a reference to the Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 14 to 20 October 1995 would be incorporated in paragraph 40 of the draft report, and that a reference to the final document adopted by the Conference would appear in subparagraph (g) of paragraph 41. He suggested that the chronology of the significant events in the recent history of the Palestinian people should be integrated into the draft report as an annex.

19. He proposed two revisions to the draft report. The first would be inserted as the last sentence at the end of paragraph 25 and would read: "The Committee welcomed the convening of the Second Middle East/North Africa Economic Summit held in Amman, Jordan, from 29 to 31 October 1995, which will facilitate the expansion of investment in the region and enhance regional cooperation and development, thereby promoting stability and an atmosphere conducive to peace." The second revision would be inserted at the end of paragraph 4 as a new paragraph and would read: "On 6 November 1995, the Bureau of the Committee condemned the assassination of the Prime Minister of Israel, Yitzhak Rabin, and expressed its hope that this criminal act would not have an adverse effect on the Middle East peace process to which Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization have committed themselves."

20. Mr. ZAINNUDDIN (Malaysia) sought clarification with regard to the expansion of the membership of the Committee referred to in paragraph 5 of chapter VII of the draft report, containing the recommendations of the Committee, and asked which specific countries, if any, had expressed interest in becoming members.

21. The CHAIRMAN said that for the past two years, the Committee had encouraged all States who wished to participate in the activities of the Committee to come forward. Since 1993, there had been a growing interest on the part of several countries, if not in becoming official members of the Committee, then in following its work much more closely. However, despite a general expression of interest in the Committee's work on the part of both European and non-European countries, there had been no official requests from specific States to become members.

22. Mr. AL-KIDWA (Observer for Palestine) thanked all the members of the Committee for their continuous support of the Palestine people and said that there was a greater need than ever to expand the membership of the Committee. With regard to the point of clarification raised by the representative of Malaysia, he said that there had been informal discussions with some delegations about their joining the Committee. With regard to the recommendations of the Committee contained in chapter VII of the draft report, he stressed the importance of the last sentence in paragraph 8 of chapter VII, in which the Committee requested the Secretary-General to maintain the political structure and composition of the Division for Palestinian Rights and to continue to provide it with the necessary resources in order to carry out its tasks.

23. Finally, he expressed appreciation to the staff of the Department of Public Information for their efforts to carry out General Assembly mandated activities, as well as other initiatives, such as a training programme for young Palestinian journalists in New York City. However, it was equally important to implement other measures that had been approved by the General Assembly, such as the envisaged news mission. He suggested that it would be extremely useful to have that news mission take part in the media coverage of the Palestine national elections, scheduled to be held on 20 January 1996.

24. The draft report, as revised, and the addendum to the draft report contained in document A/AC.183/1995/CRP.2/Add.2 were adopted chapter by chapter, paragraph by paragraph and as a whole.

25. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would meet at a later date to consider the draft resolutions on the question of Palestine to be submitted to the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.